

## CLAIMS

What we claim is:

- 5 1. A system for conducting videoconferences over a broadband Internet connection, comprising:
  - a broadband Internet connection,
  - a stand-alone transcapture module to transmit and receive video and audio signals over the broadband Internet
  - 10 connection, the module further comprising a video camera capable of recording images, a microphone capable of recording sound, firmware to operate the module, an IP address associated with the module's broadband Internet connection, a directory service protocol to assign a
  - 15 conventional telephone number to an IP address, a protocol to send module firmware version information and request and receive updates to firmware, data memory, and a commercial identification number embedded in the memory during manufacture,
  - 20 a video image monitor having a display screen and connected to the module by a visual signal cable,
  - an audio speaker connected to the module by an audio signal cable,
  - a broadband signal transmission connection between the
  - 25 module and the broadband Internet connection,
  - a server having a broadband Internet connection, wherein the server further comprises an address table that maps conventional telephone numbers to IP addresses, a firmware

version table, a protocol to receive firmware version information and requests for updates to firmware and send updates when the received request identifies firmware in need of an update, and an automatic commercial download service to map the commercial identification number against a direction table and send outgoing information to the module if the commercial identification number relates to available outgoing information on the direction table,

wherein the module establishes a connection with the server through the broadband Internet connection, and wherein the module provides the server with the IP address associated with the module's broadband Internet connection and the conventional telephone number assigned to the IP address by the directory service protocol, and wherein the module provides the server with the module firmware version information and requests updates to firmware when the module firmware version is in need of an update, and wherein the module provides the server with the commercial identification number, and

wherein the server accepts the broadband Internet connection with the module, and wherein the server receives the IP address associated with the module's broadband Internet connection and the conventional telephone number assigned to the IP address by the directory service protocol, and wherein the server maps the conventional telephone number to IP address associated with the module's broadband Internet connection in the address table, and wherein the server receives the firmware version information

from the module and compares the firmware version  
information against the firmware version table to determine  
if a firmware update is available, and wherein the server  
sends the firmware update to the module if the firmware  
5 update is available, and wherein the server receives the  
commercial identification number from the module and maps  
the commercial identification number against the direction  
table, and wherein the server sends the outgoing information  
to the module if the commercial identification number  
10 relates to available outgoing information on the direction  
table.